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10/763,868	01/22/2004	Edward Eytchison	Sony-05300	8511

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JONATHAN O OWENS
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP
162 NORTH WOLFE ROAD
SUNNYVALE, CA 94086

REC'D FEB 05 2011

EXAMINER

CLOUD, JOIYA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2444

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02/02/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/763,868

Applicant(s)

EYITCHISON ET AL.

Examiner

Joiya M. Cloud

Art Unit

2444

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to communication filed 11/22/2010. Claims 1-27 are pending. Applicant's arguments filed 11/22/2010 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

Response to Arguments

A) "Loomis does not teach that the entire content, not just the remaining portion of the content item, is streamed to the buffer (see at least Claim 27). Loomis does not teach transitioning from a pre-buffered portion of the content item to an entire content item."

As to the above point A), Examiner respectfully disagrees. In light of Applicant's instant specification, it is very clear in Figure 7 that the present invention involves the synchronizing of an initial portion with a complete stream. Furthermore, Examiner provides a comparison of Applicant's specification with the disclosure of Loomis as clearly anticipating the claimed invention supported in Applicant's specification.

Applicant's specification states on page 3:

"Methods and apparatuses for streaming content are described for presenting the content such that a delay time between requesting the content and utilizing the content is minimized. In one embodiment, methods and apparatuses for streaming content store an initial portion a selected content within a temporary storage cache; stream the initial portion of the selected content from the temporary storage cache to a stream synchronizer; simultaneously load an entire segment of the selected content to the stream synchronizer while streaming the initial portion; produce a resultant stream comprising the initial portion of the selected content; and seamlessly transition the resultant stream from the initial portion of the content to the entire segment of the content."

Loomis very clearly teaches receiving from a buffer a portion (the first few seconds of the song) of the content item (i.e. song) and seamlessly transitioning from the initial portion to an entire content item (i.e. the buffered portion) See, paragraphs [0067]-[0069].

B) With respect to claim 27, "Loomis does not teach seamlessly transitioning the resultant stream from the initial portion of the content item to the entire content item before the initial portion ends." and with respect to claim 1, "Loomis does not teach seamlessly transitioning from an initial portion of a content item to the entire content item."

As to the above point B), Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner submits that Figure 7 of Loomis clearly disclose the above claimed limitations. Furthermore, with regard to "seamlessly transitioning...before the initial portion ends," Examiner submits that by definition of seamlessly transitioning, a transition must be made just prior to the expiration of the X seconds in order to be seamless (i.e. an overlap to avoid having an interrupted stream and therefore before the initial portion ends). Loomis clearly teaches in paragraph [0007],

"The apparatus starts to play the pre-buffered small portion of the target song and starts to download the rest of the target song at the same time. Because the system is so configured that the time for playing the pre-buffered small portion is longer than the initial buffering time for the rest of the target song, the entire target song is played smoothly. In other words, there is no unintended delay between the first small portion and the rest portion either."

There is no requirement in the instant claim language stating a specific amount of time before the initial portion ends. Therefore Loomis anticipates the claim invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Loomis (US Publication No. 20060155400 A1)

As per claim 1, Loomis teaches a method comprising: identifying a preference (a user pre-selects preferred songs for a user playlist, paragraph [0041]); selecting a content item based on the preference (the first song of the playlist is selected, paragraph [0041]); storing an initial portion of the content item in a temporary storage cache (Figure 3A, where X seconds of five pre-buffered songs are stored for playing. See also paragraphs [0007], [0060], and [0061], where a pre-cache stores a small portion in a buffer and [0022], a local cache of the first ten seconds of a content item); receiving a request for the content item (paragraph [0043], where a user requests a next song to play); streaming the initial portion of the content item from the temporary storage cache to a stream synchronizer (i.e. pile driver) in response to the request (paragraph [0068]); producing a resultant stream using the initial portion of the content item (paragraph [0068]); and seamlessly transitioning the resultant stream from the

initial portion of the content item to an entire segment of the content item (**Abstract and paragraphs [0007] and [0068]**).

As per claim 2, Loomis teaches a method wherein the preference is associated with a user (**paragraph [0041]**).

As per claim 3, Loomis teaches a method wherein the preference includes a playlist (**Figure 1A, playlist**).

As per claim 4, Loomis teaches a method wherein the resultant stream mirrors the entire segment of the content (**paragraph [0007]**).

As per claim 5, Loomis teaches a method further comprising identifying a user associated with the preference (**paragraph [0041]**).

As per claim 6, Loomis teaches a method wherein the content includes one of a document, an image, audio data, and video data (**Abstract, audio data -song**).

As per claim 7, Loomis teaches a method further comprising transmitting the entire segment of the content to a stream buffer in response to the request (**paragraph [0068]**).

As per claim 8, Loomis teaches a method wherein the transmitting the entire segment of the content occurs simultaneously with streaming the initial portion (**paragraph [0007]**).

As per claim 9, Loomis teaches a method wherein the seamlessly transitioning occurs in real-time (**paragraph [0021]**).

As per claim 10, Loomis teaches a method further comprising presenting the resultant stream beginning with the initial portion and subsequently followed by a portion of the entire segment (**Abstract and paragraphs [0007] and [0068]**).

As per claim 11, claim 11 recites substantially the same limitations as claim 1. Therefore, the rejection for claim 1 applies equally as well to claim 11.

As per claim 12, Loomis teaches storing an initial portion of a selected content item in a temporary storage cache; streaming the initial portion of the selected content item from the temporary storage cache to a stream synchronizer (**paragraph []**); simultaneously loading an entire segment of the selected content item to the stream synchronizer while streaming the initial portion (**paragraphs [0068] and [0007]**); producing a resultant stream comprising the initial portion of the selected content item (**paragraphs [0068] and [0007]**); and seamlessly transitioning the resultant stream from the initial portion of the content item to the entire segment of the content item (**paragraphs [0068] and [0007]**).

As per claims 13-17, the rejection for claims 1, 6, and 9 applies fully.

As per claim 18, Loomis teaches a method further comprising displaying the resultant stream (**paragraph [0048], Figure 2**).

As per claim 19, claim 19 is substantially the same as claim 1, but in system form rather than method form. Therefore, the rejection for claim 1 applies equally as well to claim 19.

As per claim 20, claim 20 is substantially the same as claim 1, but in system rather than method form. Therefore, the rejection for claim 1 applies equally to claim 20.

As per claim 21, Loomis teaches a system wherein the client device is configured to store the initial portion of the content prior to a request for the content (paragraphs [0060] and [0061]).

As per claim 22, Loomis teaches a system wherein the client device is configured to receive the entire segment subsequent to a request for the content (Abstract and paragraphs [0007] and [0068]).

As per claim 23, Loomis teaches system wherein the client device further comprises a preference data module configured for storing information relating to the content (paragraph [0034]).

As per claims 24-26, the rejection for claims 1 and 6-7 applies fully.

As per claim 27, Loomis teaches identifying a preference; selecting a content item based on the preference, wherein the content item is a data file having a defined beginning point and ending point (paragraph [0034]); prefetching an initial portion of the content item (paragraph [0007]); storing the initial portion of the content item in the temporary storage cache (paragraph [0022], local caching of the first ten seconds); receiving a request for the content item (paragraph [0043], where a user requests a next song to play); streaming the initial portion of the content item from the temporary storage cache to a stream synchronizer in response to the request (paragraph [0068]); producing a resultant stream using the initial portion of the content item (paragraph [0068]); and seamlessly transitioning the resultant stream from the initial portion of the content item to an entire segment of the content item before the initial portion ends (paragraphs [0007] and [0068]).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joiya Cloud whose telephone number is 571-270-1146. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from on 7:30am-5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3922. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Art Unit: 2444

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JMC

January 25, 2011

Art Unit 2444

/William C. Vaughn, Jr./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2444

Notice of References Cited

Application/Control No.

10/763,868

Applicant(s)/Patent Under
Reexamination
EYCHISON ET AL.

Examiner

Joiya M. Cloud

Art Unit

2444

Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-2002/0013852 A1	01-2002	Janik, Craig	709/231
*	B	US-2002/0073172 A1	06-2002	Armstrong et al.	709/219
*	C	US-2003/0093488 A1	05-2003	Yoshida et al.	709/213
*	D	US-2004/0039834 A1	02-2004	Saunders et al.	709/231
*	E	US-2005/0066063 A1	03-2005	Grigorovitch et al.	710/001
*	F	US-2005/0108754 A1	05-2005	Carhart et al.	725/047
*	G	US-2005/0267948 A1	12-2005	McKinley et al.	709/217
*	H	US-2005/0155400 A1	07-2006	Loomis, Stephen	700/094
*	I	US-7,136,934 B2	11-2006	Carter et al.	709/248
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
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	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.